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Letter dated 8 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As President of the Security Council for November 2016, I have the honour to transmit herewith the concept note for the briefing that the Council plans to convene on Thursday, 10 November 2016 with heads of police components of peacekeeping operations and political missions, starting at 10 a.m. (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fodé **Seck**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Concept note for the Security Council briefing on the role of United Nations policing in United Nations peace operations: adapting policing for today's and tomorrow's challenges, 10 November 2016, 10 a.m.

1. Introduction

As President of the Security Council for November, Senegal will convene the annual briefing from the heads of police components of United Nations peacekeeping operations. Security Council resolution 2185 (2014), the first stand-alone resolution on United Nations policing, holistically considered the important role that United Nations police play across the entire peace and security spectrum, from conflict prevention and management to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peace sustainment. The briefing will provide an opportunity to consider the diverse mandated tasks and requirements of the United Nations police. It also provides a platform on which to consider the vision and recommendations of the Secretary-General on a United Nations police that can meet today's and tomorrow's challenges, as put forward in his forthcoming report (S/2016/952) on United Nations policing in response to resolution 2185 and the External Review of the Functions, Structure and Capacity of the United Nations Police Division.

2. Background

The report of the High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations stressed the significant changes in United Nations peace operations, which holds particularly true for United Nations policing. Today, approximately 13,500 officers, of whom 10 per cent are women, are deployed to 12 peacekeeping operations and 5 special political missions, where they are assigned a variety of complex tasks. Increasingly robust mandates concurrently require United Nations police to protect civilians, address serious and organized crime and provide operational support, while also promoting the reform, restructuring and development of host-State capacity. The breakdown of law and order often provides a trigger for deployment of a United Nations peace operation. Correspondingly and in the spirit of Sustainable Development Goal 16, the (re-)establishment of host-State policing and other core functions of the criminal justice sector, in accordance with the rule of law, will allow United Nations peace operations to reduce and eventually withdraw.

The increased recognition of the significance of the United Nations police, as emphasized by Member States during the first United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit, in June 2016, and at preceding and subsequent peacekeeping summits, and as illustrated by the increased attention by the Security Council and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, contributes to highlighting and addressing systemic capacity and capability gaps, developing tangible international standards using the Strategic Guidance Framework for International Police Peacekeeping and

refining mandated policing tasks. However, sustained efforts are required to enhance: the timely identification of skill sets and capabilities; the ability of United Nations police to deploy rapidly into new or existing theatres, as well as their mobility within theatre; the capacity to protect civilians and United Nations personnel; and access to advanced police technology, training and extra-budgetary and programmatic funding.

3. Briefing from heads of police components

The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Security Council to hear directly from the heads of police components of select United Nations peacekeeping operations on their activities in the field, including the challenges they face in implementing their mandates. The format will mirror that of previous briefings. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and four police commissioners have been invited to give short presentations on the following topics:

- **Overview and current challenges facing the United Nations police**: Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hervé Ladsous;
- **Protection of civilians, community engagement, crisis management and changes in mandate**: Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, Bruce Munyambo;
- **Gender-sensitive policing and conduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse**: Police Commissioner of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, Priscilla Makotose;
- **Police capacity-building and development as part of wider security sector reform efforts**: Police Commissioner of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, Georges-Pierre Monchotte;
- **Transnational threats, safety and security of United Nations Police**: Police Commissioner of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, Issoufou Yacoubou.

Following these briefings, the floor will be opened to give Council members an opportunity to make statements and to raise questions. To promote interactive, lively discussions, Security Council members are encouraged to respond to the presentations. The briefers will have the opportunity to respond.

4. Issues for consideration

Security Council members may wish to consider addressing the following issues in their interventions:

- **Police capacity-building and development**: How can United Nations police components best support the development of responsive, representative, accountable, well-governed and effective host-State police and other law enforcement agencies? What are the challenges and best practices? What skill sets and capabilities are most needed? How can the Security Council support integrated police reform efforts within other security sector and rule of law reform?

- **Enhanced performance**: What can contributing countries, the Secretariat and peacekeeping operations do, jointly, to increase police performance in the field? How can formed police units be less reactive and static and more effective, flexible and mobile? How can the Organization ensure that units and officers arrive in mission well trained, well equipped and well suited to deliver on their mandates? How can other externalities such as written caveats and constraints imposed by host Governments best be managed?

- **Protection of civilians**: How do United Nations police components contribute to all three tiers of protection of civilians: not just by providing physical protection but also by establishing a protective environment and undertaking dialogue and engagement? What are the respective comparative advantages of individual police officers, formed police units, specialized police teams and civilian policing experts in this regard?

- **Women, peace and security**: Given the unique contribution that women make to conflict resolution and post-conflict peacebuilding, how can the United Nations work with contributing countries to overcome systemic challenges preventing fuller participation of women in police peacekeeping? What could be done to strengthen the role of police components in promoting gender-sensitive policing, ensuring gender balance among host-State police and other law enforcement agencies, and preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence?

- **Threats, safety and security**: How can United Nations police components effectively operate in current environments, while ensuring the safety, security, and welfare of their officers? How can the Council and Secretariat encourage Member States to nominate appropriately skilled and equipped personnel?

- **Missions in transition**: With a number of missions drawing down and transitioning, we may see transitioning peacekeeping operations with a sizable police presence but no military. How will the political, support and other substantive components need to adjust to a uniformed presence that is primarily composed of police? How can police best contribute to a successful exit and transition out of peacekeeping?